

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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December 1, 2005

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Fifth District

To:

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Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

## Senator Perata Announces Priorities for 2006

Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata held a press conference on December 1, 2005 to announce the Senate Democrats' "Back to Basics" priorities for 2006. They are education, healthcare, energy and transportation as discussed below.

**Education Goals.** Develop strategies to recruit and retain the 100,000 qualified teachers that are needed for our public schools by 2014, and identify ways to narrow student achievement gaps. Address more than \$14 billion in new construction and modernization needed to improve school conditions and provide clean, safe, and well-stocked classrooms.

Healthcare Goals. Improve California's fragmented public health system including identifying gaps in emergency and trauma care. Senator Perata indicated that California's emergency rooms have increasing rates of diversion, and noted that in Los Angeles County, public hospitals were on diversion an average of 63 percent of the time. Develop strategies to recruit, train, and retrain the additional 15,000 qualified nurses that the State will need by 2010. Address the high demand for other healthcare technicians, including radiology technicians, physician assistants, and physical therapists.

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**Energy Goals.** Develop ways to use energy more efficiently, to reduce costs and to protect the environment, including reducing dependence on natural gas for electricity generation and replacing it with other clean, renewable sources of power.

**Transportation Goals.** Jumpstart stalled road and transportation improvement and safety projects. Make physical, security, and air quality improvements to our ports, and protect the levee networks that provide flood protection and clean drinking water.

Senator Perata told reporters that he has submitted these goals to the Governor, and that budget oversight hearings in each of these areas will start in January when the Legislature reconvenes the second half of the two year session.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK MAL:JF:MS:DW:DS:kg

C: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Local 660
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants